operations and to enforce the provisions of the enactments. These duties are being performed by the Coast Guard (CG) with the present force level. Adequate provision has been made in the CG Development Plan 1997-2002 for procuring ships/aircrafts/equipment so as to undertake the operations required for prevention of smuggling and other unlawful activities. The CG ships and aircraft undertake various missions and operations to keep the maritime zones of India under surveillance for prevention of smuggling and other unlawful activities.

Insurgency in Kashmir

3980. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Armed forces blame the Central Government for Kashmir's security mismanagement as reported in the 'Asian Age' dated the 12th January, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the offensive proposed to wipe out insurgency in Kashmir ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Government are aware of the said news-report wherein certain views have been attributed to security officials. Such a projection is entirely incorrect. The views expressed by the journalist are entirely his own.

Appropriate steps continue to be taken to tackle the situation created by terrorists in J & K, aided and abetted by Pakistan. The security forces are engaged in relentless operations to foil the plans of the terrorists and their promoters.

Powers delegated to Hqr. by the MOD

3981. CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MOD delegated the powers for posting of Colonel and Brigadier of AMC to Army Hqrs;

(b) if not, then under what provision AHQ is exercising the powers of transferring the above officers;

(c) how many officers of the above ranks of AMC has been transferred in 1998 and 1999 without approval of MOD;

(d) whether it is a fact that there is large scale discontentment in AMC officers because of such indiscriminate and illegal use of power by AHQ; and

(e) what steps are being taken by MOD to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Army Headquarters are exercising these powers apparently under paras 16A(d) and 27 of Regulations for Medical Services of the Armed Forces (RMSAF-83) as interpreted by them.

(c) :

	1998	1999
Col. and equivalent	08	283
Brig. and Equivalent	11	47

(d) No such instance has come to the notice of the Goverment.

(e) The matter is under examination.

Talks with Terrorists

†3982. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have offered to hold talks with the terrorist groups to bring them into the mainstream of society;

(b) if so, the details of the groups selected for talks;

(c) whether Government have received the reaction of these groups; and

(d) if so, the details of reaction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASGAR RAO) : (a) to (d) : During his visit to Jammu and Kashmir on 26-27 July, 1997, the then Prime Minister had made an appeal to the misguided youth of the State, who have joined the militant ranks, to give up

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.